

Amendment to the Abstract:

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract, including the changes reflected below, is attached.

Footwear (1) with a lace fastening ~~comprises~~ includes an opening (5) with a first edge (5a) and a second edge (5b) ~~which~~ The first and second edges are juxtaposed and each of ~~which~~ edge carries a respective plurality of lacing eyes, ~~and a~~ At least two laces (20, 21) extending through respective pairs of the lacing eyes ~~(11a, b) (17a, b)~~. The ends of both of the laces converge on both of the edges of the opening, with at least one end of each lace (20, 21) extending through a respective end lacing eye ~~(17a, 17b)~~ of the fastening provided on each of the opposite edges.